

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 01744 121732Z

70

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AID-01 RSC-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /023 W

----- 077978

R 121710Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 6706

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1744

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (POAGE, W R)

SUBJ: CODEL POAGE/DE LA GARZA

REF A, STATE 228367 B, COTONOU 1726

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH CODEL WAS IN DAHOMEY DURING ONLY TWO HOURS OF DAYLIGHT AND MUST HAVE LEFT WITH ONLY THE VAGUEST IMPRESSIONS OF THE COUNTRY, THEIR OVERNIGHT VISIT NOV 8-9 WENT WELL AND IT WAS USEFUL TO US INTERESTS.

2. CODEL ARRIVED 1740 HOURS LOCAL TIME NOV 8 AND DEPARTED 0730 FOLLOWING MORNING. THEY WERE MET AT AIRPORT BY AMB AND WERE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO PRES KEREKOU'S OFFICE BY CHARGE (AMB HAD NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS). THE HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WAS FOLLOWED BY STAG DINNER AT AMB'S RESIDENCE. GUESTS WHO TURNED UP INCLUDED ONE MINSTER (CAPT AUGUSTIN HONVOH, NEW MIN OF PLAN, STATISTICS AND COORDINATION OF FOREIGN AID) AND ABOUT 20 SENIOR DAHOMEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS. THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME DURING THE TWILIGHT AND EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE VISIT TO DO ANY TOURING.

3. MEETING WITH KEREKOU WAS CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE ONCE PRESIDENT DISCOVERED, AFTER FIRST TEN MINUTES, THAT VISITORS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 01744 121732Z

WERE NOT MEMBERS OF SOME CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUT MEMBERS OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US CONGRESS (WE HAD SENT THE FORNMIN A FORMAL NOTE ON THE VISIT A WEEK EARLIER.) HE THEN EXCLAIMED ENTHUSIASTICALLY "OH YES, YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE BECUASE YOU CONTROL THE PURSE STRINGS FOR FOREIGN AID." KEREKOU DECLARED THAT THE US HAD HELPED DAHOMEY A LOT, BUT NOT ENOUGH. HE ASKED FOR PLOWS, MORE ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING BETTER LIVESTOCK AND FAVORABLE ACTION BY EXIMBANK IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSALS FOR CEMENT FACTORY AND SUGAR REFINERY. HE ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO DEPLOY ARMY UNITS TO ASSIST IN PREPARING LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL USE (IN OUR TERMINOLOGY A KIND OF "CIVIL ACTION"). IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM, HOWEVER, HE WOULD NEED TRACTORS AND WOULD LIKE USG TO PROVIDE THEM. CODEL REMAINED SILENT. THEREUPON, KEREKOU ANNOUNCED HUMOROUSLY THAT HE WOULD SEND THE REQUEST FOR TRACTORS TO PRESIDENT FORD. AT OUTSET OF MEETING HEAD OF CODEL DE LA GARZA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OF USG AND US PUBLIC RE PROMPT UNLOADING AT COTONOU PORT AND RAPID TRANSSHIPMENT TO NIGER OF US AID SUPPLIES.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS: REF B WAS USINFO MESSAGE ON CODEL'S CALL ON PRES KEREKOU FOR POSSIBLE VOA USE. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT PRESIDENTS OFFICE AND AMB'S RESIDENCE WILL BE AIR POUCHED SOONEST..

5. COMMENT: VISIT SERVED TO (A) BRING PRESIDENT KEREKOU INTO CONTACT WITH SOME AUTHORITATIVE MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS, WHO IMPRESSED UPON U.S. INTEREST IN AFRICA, (B) FOCUS ATTENTION OF KEREKOU AND PROGRAM-DIRECTING DAHOMEAN OFFICIALS ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR DAHOMEY'S OWN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITSELF, PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SPHERE, AND (D) BRING NEWLY-ARRIVED AMBASSADOR INTO INITIAL DIALOGUE WITH A NUMBER OF KEY DAHOMEANS, WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN DELAYED UNTIL AFTER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.

5. THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT BY U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO DAHOMEY SINCE THE BIAFRAN WAR (1968). ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR HAS NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO ASSESS SITUATION WITH FULL CONFIDENCE, HE BELIEVES, AND HIS COLLEAGUES HERE CONCUR, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO U.S. INTERESTS TO HAVE SUCH VISITS AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COTONO 01744 121732Z

ENGLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COTONO01744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0148
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741151/aaaabrml.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 228367 B. COTONOU 1726
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL POAGE/DE LA GARZA
TAGS: OREP, (POAGE, W R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005